



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT



VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

Data and Innovation Program

PROGRAM SUMMARY AND HISTORY

Data-driven programming and innovative solutions to violence prevention are critical to changing the trajectory of violence occurring within our community. Identification of interventions begins with reviewing established data to detect areas that are lacking and need assistance. Reviewing of violence data has a two-prong approach: (1) quantitative and (2) qualitative. The quantitative approach of data establishes the amount and levels of violence we know exist and we can visually see as a community. However, the pitfall of utilizing quantitative data is the limits and restrictions of established datasets and tracking mechanisms. This type of data can tell a limited story of what is currently going on. However, it cannot see the alternative side to that violence. The qualitative approach to data is listening and reading what is going on within the community to depict a more holistic picture of the root cause of violence occurring within our community. This is elaborated through a case management function of listening and/or reading what led up to a violent act on both sides of that violence. The qualitative data is less likely to be tracked within an established system and hides a huge portion of the story of violence within our local community.

Historically, to stop violence, the community had to wait for violence to occur and attempt to intervene to reduce that level of violence. However, within the data and innovation program, it is the timely and accurate identification of individuals at high risk of experiencing violence, victims and/or actors, and then coupling strategies that move violence prevention from anecdote to action. Through data, assessments, and risk factors, one can begin to identify trends and patterns of behavior to measure violence. If a community is unable to measure something, then the community cannot improve something. For example, measuring domestic violence solely through the lens of law enforcement data is inadequate. Not only will this approach miss a large portion of impacted individuals,



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but it also places the scrutiny for success or failure on one part of a complex system simply because it is the part of the system providing data. The Cardiff model discussed under Goal 3 relies on shared data across many systems to identify the most efficient and practical points of intervention to prevent violence in a community. Identifying intermediate indicators across all parts of the system, committing to share definitions, and engaging in regular structure reviews through forums like a Domestic Violence Fatality Review process builds a shared knowledge base about the size of the issue, what's working, and where the process is stuck. Domestic Violence Fatality Review teams "identify homicides, suicides, and other deaths caused by, related to, or somehow traceable to domestic violence and review them to develop preventive interventions." Family Violence Prevention Services hosts the Domestic Violence Fatality Review, which is currently being reorganized and will begin reviews shortly.

Much of the data available on violence in San Antonio is limited to criminal justice data. The ingenuities housed within the Violence Prevention Data and Innovation Program support the development of novel analysis, progressive initiatives, and identification of individuals and communities at high risk for violence. Additionally, coordinating across sectors supports streamlined approaches to use resources to do the most good efficiently.

DATA AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

► Strategic Growth Priorities for the Data and Innovation

Program include: Implement Unified Approach to Violence Data Analysis and Presentation: The development of a community-facing data dashboard will provide near real-time updates on violence in San Antonio to support transparency and greater community awareness and understanding of the shape of

violence in San Antonio. In addition, the data dashboard will allow researchers, community partners, and community educators to easily identify areas that our community has a greater need when developing programs. Knowledge and understanding of what is occurring in the community is the first step to be able to empower a community to implement change.



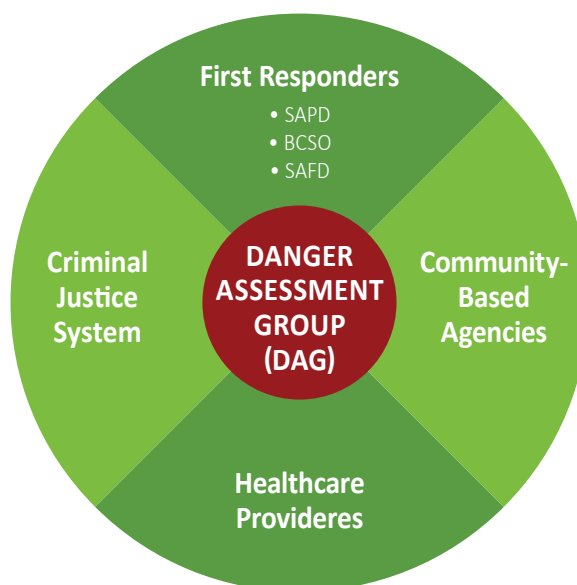
The Bexar County Child Fatality Review team, currently housed at Bexar County Juvenile Probation, approached Metro Health to coordinate the fatality review teams. Data and Innovation would unify within Metro Health the Child Fatality Review Team, the Fetal Infant Mortality Review, and implement the Adult Death Review; additionally, there would be a collaborative approach on the Domestic Violence Death Review. Collectively, the fatality review teams would develop a comprehensive community collaboration identifying why our children are dying and what is causing our adult citizens to die a violent death. The coordination across fatality review teams would facilitate efficient record abstraction, data collection, and in-depth analysis. This process would allow for

the development of recommendations to assist with improving the lives of the citizens within the local community.

- **Cross-Sector Violence Prevention Initiative:** Under this initiative, Metro Health would facilitate a comprehensive community-based violence prevention plan. Currently, several different COSA plans are addressing a different aspect of violence. Through close coordination with SAPD and community agencies, Metro Health would develop a 10-year plan utilizing a human rights framework to reduce San Antonio violence. This initiative expands the existing community partnerships with University Health and Brook Army Medical Center, and the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence.

KEY INITIATIVES

- **Child Fatality Review:** As described above, the Child Fatality Review will be moved into Metro Health from Bexar County Juvenile Probation. The move will allow for greater coordination between fatality reviews and more comprehensive recommendations. Furthermore, it will allow for the development of additional prevention measures to keep our children and citizens healthy.
- **CCDV Quarterly Data Report:** The persistent challenge of data availability related to domestic violence encouraged the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence to request the development of a quarterly data report. The challenge of data being siloed by various agencies has been a consistent problem, to collaborative approach will assist with agencies working together toward a common goal. Additionally, a quarterly report will allow our community to be able to catch trends before they become increasingly problematic.
- **MEDCOM Hotline:** STRAC danger assessment hotline. Tracking referrals from BCSO in order to identify trends within the community so that we can better solicit interventions appropriately.
- **Lethality Training:** Training various agencies on the danger assessment in order to identify victims who may not otherwise be found. This will also assist with finding victims who have a high risk for lethality by utilization of the Danger Assessment across sectors. Improving the outreach to victims of domestic violence will assist with being able to develop an overall picture of what domestic violence truly is in our community. Through this process the data and innovation team will be able to further assist additional pockets of our community that may or may not ever have been identified.



- **Danger Assessment Group:** Using the threat assessment model developed by the Public Safety Threat Assessment Group (PSTAG) and the Tri-Weekly Threat Assessment Group (TTAG) to identify high-risk individuals and intervene with wraparound services and treatment, the Data and Innovation Program has developed the Danger Assessment Group (DAG) and the Danger Assessment Risk Team (DART). DAG and DART is a multi-agency approach to coordinated response on targeted violence. DAG will be able to provide case studies, multi-agency training, as well as community updates as it relates to targeted violence. DART will be able to identify victims and/or abusers through a diverse group of community agencies and partners. The overall arching goal of DAG/DART is to assist with preventing incidents of family violence before they become extremely violent and/or lethal.



► **San Antonio Housing Authority:** Collaborative approach to assisting a vulnerable population to live an overall healthy life and reduce the trauma. At SAHA, there are numerous calls for domestic violence that do not receive attention from law enforcement because internally victims are making outcries for transfers due to fearing for their safety; however, the wraparound services are not being provided to keep that

individual safe. Data and Innovation would be able to further implement assessment tools to assist SAHA with providing victims with safety and keeping their communities healthy.

► **Referral System Coordination:** Implementation of a referral system to track where referrals for service are coming from and where the Violence Prevention team can continue making an impact.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Data requires agreements between a broad spectrum of community collaborators including: San Antonio Police Department, San Antonio Fire Department, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County District Attorney, Bexar County Office of Criminal Justice, Bexar County Pre-Trial Bond Supervision, Bexar County Community

Supervision and Corrections Department, Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Parole Division, Family Violence Prevention Services, South Texas Regional Advisory Council, Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, Region 20, all local school districts, University Health System, Methodist Healthcare, BAMC

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Footnote

i Websdale, N., Ferraro, K., & Barger, S. D. (2019). The domestic violence fatality review clearinghouse: Introduction to a new National Data System with a focus on firearms. *Injury Epidemiology*, 6(1). doi:10.1186/s40621-019-0182-2